

Virginia Association of Counties. In these roles, he was skilled at finding consensus and preventing divisiveness.

William was also a fierce champion of public education. Throughout his life, he fought to make sure that every child in the Goochland area could access quality education and new opportunities. He was a cofounder of the Goochland Education Foundation, and he was serving on the Goochland County School Board at the time of his death.

William took on each day's new challenges with an unforgettable vigor, a bright smile, and a contagious laugh and enthusiasm. He always remained positive. His enthusiasm was contagious.

People talked about how you couldn't talk to William without him pulling you into some sort of volunteerism, some level of civic engagement, some plan that he was working on. He helped people become their better selves, their more engaged selves, their more community-focused selves.

Madam Speaker, last month, William passed away at the age of 68. He left a community mourning. A bright spot, a bright man, and a man who would bring such kindness to every endeavor, William liked to use a simple acronym, one that his father-in-law had also used. The acronym is SMILE:

S—Seek to understand before being understood;

M—Make the other person feel important;

I—It is not about me;

L—Listen twice as much as you speak;

E—Enthusiastically and quickly admit it when you are wrong.

Madam Speaker, when I began running for Congress, William gave me these lessons, this acronym SMILE. He said: "Remember this. This is how you best serve people."

As our Commonwealth and our Nation face new challenges, we would do well to follow William's advice as we seek solutions and work to come together.

Madam Speaker, today, my thoughts are with his wife, Ruth; his sons, William and Christopher; his friends and family; and the greater Goochland community. William was a friend to everyone, and he considered everyone a friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RYAN) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we pray You draw near, and remind us once again how good it is to be close to You.

Come alongside our lawmakers today that their walk would fall in step with Your own purpose.

Provide them encouragement when their work and their desire for progress seems frustrated and hopeless.

Guide them with Your counsel when they find themselves inclined to lead on impulse.

And grant them confidence in Your grace plan when they are confounded with uncertainty and hesitation.

Show them the importance of patience when they face intransigence and narrow-mindedness among their colleagues.

And when, on this journey, our hearts become embittered, show us how to love as You have loved us.

Sovereign God, despite our best efforts, we may fail today. But You are the strength of our hearts and our reward forever. In this promise and in Your presence, sustain us in the living of these days.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INEQUALITY IS AT HISTORIC HIGHS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the PRO Act. Union membership is at historic lows while inequality is at historic highs. The tremendous income inequality in our country is due, in large part, to antiunion policies that have stripped workers of the freedom to negotiate collectively for higher wages, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

Strong unions are essential to rebuilding the middle class and improving the lives of millions of Americans.

The PRO Act ensures workers have the freedom to decide for themselves, without retaliation, whether to form a union. It strengthens safeguards to ensure workers can hold free and fair union elections and it imposes penalties on companies and executives that violate workers' collective bargaining rights.

Passing the PRO Act will not only strengthen Rhode Island's workers' ability to join a union, it will help rebuild the middle class and create an economy where everyone can succeed.

I urge all my colleagues to support the PRO Act.

RECOGNIZING PARRY MCCLUER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Parry McCluer High School boys indoor track and field team for once again winning the Virginia Class 1 State championship last week.

This victory marks back-to-back State titles for this incredibly talented squad led by Coach Poluikis.

After the Fighting Blues graduated a number of their starters last year, Poluikis wasn't sure if his team could go the distance.

With only five Blues competing at the State tournament he said: "I knew we could win, but everything had to go perfect." And everything did go perfectly.

Trevor Tomlin swept the 1600 and 3200. Brenden Plogger won the 1000, and Zavery Wallace took the shot put.

Kedryn Chandler contributed points with a second-place finish in the 3200 and a third-place finish in the 1600, while Omar Massenberg added points in the shot put.

When all was said and done, Parry McCluer had come out with a two-point lead over runners-up Altavista.

This win was made all the more impressive by the fact that all of the team's 58 points were scored in just four events.

Congratulations to this Fighting Blues team on a remarkable season. You have earned it.

WHEN UNIONS ARE STRONG AMERICA IS STRONG

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

For more than a decade, I helped lead the Culinary Training Academy of Las Vegas, the largest job training program